

Director's Report – September 2010

Collection Matters

As you are aware, substantial cuts were made to the library materials budget which resulted in an overall reduction of 45%.

This means a noticeable decrease in the number of new library materials we are able to purchase. While the library materials budget was not completely eliminated in either FY10 or FY11, the materials budget for FY10 was \$3.4 million, down from \$5.5 million as originally appropriated, and the FY11 library materials budget is \$3 million.

The freeze on all County purchases that went into effect April 26 will continue until at least October 1. Recently, I requested and obtained an exemption from the Chief Administrative Officer that enabled us to resume ordering some library materials. Because of the Countywide need to be very conservative with fiscal obligations and purchasing for the first quarter of FY11, library materials purchasing will resume at a considerably lower rate than would be typical. We will shut down some electronic resources altogether until mid-fall and will order far fewer reference books and magazine subscriptions.

I realize that, due to the number of holds on popular titles and the small number of materials we are able to purchase, it may seem as though we have hardly purchased any new materials. We ask customers to bear with us as we try to purchase materials to meet the current needs of our County's diverse population.

Your public library is still a great place to get good books. I encourage you to discover new authors or read a favorite classic, talk to our librarians for favorite picks, browse the readers' displays in our branches or check out [Readers' Café](#) on the library website for reviews and recommendations.

Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. In these tough economic times, your library card gives you free access to books, assistance with resume and job searches, accurate financial information, CDs, DVDs and much more. If you are not already one of our valued customers with a library card, it's the perfect time to come in to your local library and sign up for the smartest card of all!

Programs and Special Events

September marks the beginning of a new season of library programs and events, and Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has something for everyone – from puppet theater performances for children and Hispanic Heritage celebrations for all ages to author events and workshops on resume preparation and interviewing skills for adults.

The **BIG READ**, programs for teens, is coming to MCPL in mid-September! This reading initiative of The National Endowment for the Arts is intended to create a community of literary readers. This year's selection is [The Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe](#). Programs for teens include book discussions of Poe's works and a dramatic presentation of "What's Eating Edgar Allan Poe?" Programs at the library are presented in partnership with Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center.

Our "Meet the Author" series provides opportunities to hear local authors talk about their books and share their experiences as writers. The fall series kicks off with Neil Isaacs, author of *The Package and the Baggage* and *The Doaker's Story* at the White Oak Library on September 15 at 7 p.m. Other speakers include: David Hoffman, author of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize winning book, [The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy](#); and Silver Spring author of [The Dream Life of Sukhanov](#) and *The Line*, Olga Grushin.

In partnership with Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute, continuing education classes for seniors 50+ will be held at the Davis and Rockville Memorial Libraries. For more information and to register, visit: www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce or call 240-567-5188.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library Montgomery County, Inc., local Friends of the Library chapters and collaboration with our community partners, MCPL is able to present quality programs like these for the community.

For the latest library news and information, you may also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Director